

Yang discloses cord anchorage grooves 11 for integrating a beaded cushion panel 20 with a curved frame 10. The grooves 11 comprise a channel and a plurality of notches communicating with the channel, so that each loop of the cord 21 fits into two notches and the connecting portion of the channel. Col. 2, lines 15-27.

The Examiner states that the cord anchorage grooves 11 comprise an undercut area. This is not correct. As shown in the cross-sectional drawings of Figures 4 and 6 of Yang, the cords 21 fit within a channel 11. However, the tabs (unnumbered) that are formed by the channels 11 (see Fig. 3) do not have an area that undercuts the tabs themselves. In contrast, Applicants' invention provides undercut areas to prevent the fabric from dislodging from the teeth. (See undercut area 462 in Fig. 36; page 35, lines 23-24, lines 30-32.

Koa discloses a cushion retainer 16 that attaches to a rigid pan 14 in order to secure a cushion 12 to the pan 14. Col. 3, lines 13-21. The cushion 12 is formed from resilient foam and has a vinyl cover 64 attached thereto. Col. 3, line 63 to col. 4, line 12. Lances 52 pierce the vinyl cover flap 66 and enter holes 62 in the rigid pan 14. Col. 4, lines 33-58. The lances 62 extend into the foam body of the cushion 12. Fig. 9. Koa does not disclose a fabric with holes through which teeth protrude to provide a body support surface.

The Examiner's combination of Koa with Yang is improper because there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Koa with Yang. In fact, Koa teaches away from this combination. The lances 52 in Koa do not serve the same purpose as the teeth in the Applicants' claims.

In Koa, the body support surface is a cushion 12, not a fabric as in the Applicants' claims. The fabric is critical to the Applicants' invention because it provides superior comfort for the user. Moreover, a fabric body support surface is more challenging to secure than other support surfaces, such as foam cushions. The lances 52 of Koa penetrate a vinyl cover flap 66 (i.e., a cover for the cushion), not a fabric material used to support the weight of a person. Col. 4, lines 33-58. The lances 52 are used to initially assemble and tack the cover flap 66 to the pan 14. Col. 5, lines 7-19. Once the seat assembly is initially assembled and tacked, screws 58 are inserted to finally tighten the retainer 16 to the pan peripheral region 32. Col. 5, lines 10-13. The

screws 58 provide compression to frictionally engage the cover flap 66 to ribs 48. Col. 4, lines 48-55; Fig. 10.

The lances in Koa are not used for securing fabric to a frame to form a body support surface. The lances in Koa are used for initial assembly. Screws and ribs are used to secure the cover flap. Moreover, the thing which is lanced (*i.e.*, the cover flap) is not even a body support surface (the cushion is the body support surface). Koa does not suggest the use of grasping members to secure fabric to a frame to form a body support surface. Koa suggests the opposite—the inadequacy of grasping members to secure fabric to a frame. Koa's suggestion of the inadequacy of grasping members to secure a fabric body support surface is evidenced by Koa's use of a foam cushion instead of fabric. Thus, Koa teaches away from the Examiner's combination. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or motivation in the references relied upon by the Examiner to combine Yang with Koa to achieve the invention claimed by the Applicants in claim 1. Because claim 1 is allowable the claims that depend therefrom are also allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of Applicants' claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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